

*A<sup>2</sup> (cont'd)*  
modulating step includes modulating the functional of the STAT family of transcription factors by administering an effective amount of an oligonucleotide containing optimal binding sites for the STAT family of transcription factors.

4. (Amended) [A] The method [of] according to claim 1, wherein said modulating step includes modulating the function of NF kappa B by administering an effective amount of an oligonucleotide which competitively binds the NF kappa B.

Please cancel ~~claim 5.~~

*A<sup>3</sup>*  
17. (Amended) [A] the therapeutic agent according to claim 20, wherein said effective amount is [comprising] an effective amount of the oligonucleotide of claim 13 for modulating the function of transcription factors and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Amended) [A] the therapeutic agent according to claim 20, wherein said effective amount is [comprising] an effective amount of the oligonucleotide of claim 14 for modulating the function of transcription factors and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

*A<sup>4</sup>*  
20. (New) A therapeutic agent comprising an effective amount of an oligonucleotide for modulating the function of transcription factors and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.